

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Home owning and the reduction of mortality among Negroes go hand in hand. What Hampton and other schools have declared to be sound in theory is now found to be true in practice; namely, education, to be truly worth while, must furnish results in the shape of well and happy people living in clean, attractive Christian homes. The Negro death rate in the registration area, according to the census of 1910, was 25.5 per 1,000 population—a decrease as compared with the rate in 1900, which was 29.4. The white death rate in the same territory was 14.6 per 1,000 population. While, therefore, there is some reason for rejoicing, the fight against the high Negro death rate must be even more intelligently directed. More attention must be given to Negro housing, the care of consumptives, the feeble-minded and other handicapped classes, child conservation and public health education. The figures from selected cities show, with few exceptions, a decrease, according to the census of 1910, in the Negro death rate as compared with that shown by the 1900 census. A study of typical southern cities discloses, however, in spite of a decreasing Negro death rate, a health problem which white and colored people must face bravely, intelligently and immediately. When Negroes are dying at least as fast again as their white neighbors, there is no health security for educated and wealthy people, regardless of their color. Better health for Negroes! This cry should be heeded by school and health officers, business and professional men, church and Sunday school workers, indeed, by all classes of citizens, regardless of race or creed. "The question as to whether the decrease in mortality among Negroes in 1910 as compared with 1900," says a recent bulletin issued by the census bureau, "was due to permanent causes, such as improved housing conditions, better medical attention, and generally improved sanitary conditions, and not to the absence of epidemics, is an important and interesting one." Then follows this significant statement, and the figures which accompany it warrant a respectful hearing: "Undoubtedly one of the factors which have caused the decrease in the Negro death rate is the increase in home ownership among the Negro population. Alabama and Virginia, in which Tuskegee and Hampton are located, make a good showing. In Alabama Negroes owned, in 1910, 33,841 homes (including 17,227 farmhouses), an increase of 44.2 per cent over 1900, or one owned home for every 27 Negro inhabitants. In Virginia there were, in 1910, 56,933 homes (including 32,528 farmhouses), an increase of 23.1 per cent over 1900, or one owned home for every 12 Negro inhabitants. For the southern states as a whole, the figures were, in 1910: Total owned homes of Negro families, 430,449 (including 212,507 farmhouses), an increase of 31.4 per cent over 1900, or one owned home for every 20 Negro inhabitants. To offset this good record for whole groups of states and for the entire South, there is the clearest kind of evidence that the city Negro is not essentially a home owner, despite the lowering Negro death rate in typical cities. Important work remains to be done, not only in forcing down and down the Negro death rate, but also in helping the Negro, rural as well as urban, to own his home. The good work of reducing Negro mortality through home owning should be continued.

The United States treasury department has started out to defeat the scheme of certain persons operating in the South who are collecting money from former slaves by telling them they are entitled to share in a fund of \$68,000,000, an amount said to have been collected in Civil war times as an internal revenue tax on raw cotton. "There is no fund of \$68,000,000 or any other sum in the treasury of the United States for former slaves or their heirs, or for any other persons who worked in the cotton fields of the South," declared an official statement issued over the signature of Secretary McAdoo. The former slaves, according to the statement, are informed by the persons behind the project that a part of the alleged fund is due them on account of labor performed by them during the years from 1859 to 1865. Those who would make the collections for the former slaves or their heirs generally propose the institution of a suit in the District supreme court against the secretary of the treasury with utter disregard. It is said, of the fact that it is a familiar law that a suit of this nature

There are still three survivors of the original Mormon band to find its way into the valley of the Great Salt Lake in 1847. One is Lorenzo So-bek, who belonged to the third "ten" of the original company, to which Brigham Young also belonged. His first home was a wagon box lifted from its truck and supported by posts.

In making up the numbers for their lotteries the Italians always leave out 13.

Tyrannical Conventuality. There is little doubt that one of the most oppressive, injurious, detestable forces in the world is the force of conventuality, that instinct which makes men judge character and an action, not by its beauty or its merits, but by comparing it with the standard of how the normal man would regard it. This vast and intolerable medium of dullness, which penetrates our lives like a thick, dark mist, allowing us only to see the object in range of an immediate vision,

inspired by white and colored people working together for better housing, better schools and better home life.—Southern Workman.

Antipathy to the Negro and unjust abuse of him is born of misconception of his place in southern industrial life. What truth there is in charges made to the grand jury of abuses practiced by city officials against Negro prisoners this writer does not know. But the picture drawn by charges of beatings inflicted, of property confiscated and of general mistreatment of ignorant and unprotected blacks closely parallels the hideous picture of the Black Hole of Calcutta, and constitutes a blot upon the record of this boasted section of civilization.

The Negro is yet a ward of this nation, of the white men who compose, guide and direct it, and he is entitled to the protection and care of the courts and of society. He is, too, an important integral part of our industrial life. By his labor the South has prospered, the fires of industry have been kindled and kept alive. He guides the plow in thousands of fields. He delves deep into the bowels of the earth and brings forth treasure for the people.

That many Negroes are ignorant is no fault of theirs; that many are vicious is but a natural tendency of the human race, both white and black. Yet the Negro must ever be regarded as a producer, especially in this Southland of ours. Remove him from the industrial fields of the South, and the loss would fall heavily upon capital and progress would be retarded.

It is thought that the Bessemer case is not the only one that should be ventilated and punishment follow. The fee system has long oppressed the Negro, and many are the victims of injustice at the hands of official oppressors. The strong hand of the law should be invoked to protect the oppressed, and intelligence and morality should demand fairness for blacks and for whites alike. Let it be remembered that dependence between whites and blacks is mutual in this great industrial district, and to discourage and drive away one class would work serious hardships to the other. The bone and sinew of blacks directed by the brain and capital of whites constitutes the driving force in our march of progress.

Is it not probable that such abuses as those alleged against Bessemer officials cause criminal Negroes to so often shoot and kill deputy sheriffs and policemen while in the discharge of their duties in making arrests?—Bessemer (Ala.) Weekly.

There are 278 libraries in Massachusetts which have been gifts to the communities, and the donor of 33 is Mr. Carnegie. In 48 towns of the state funds are being accumulated to erect library buildings, and in the free public libraries now in existence there are housed more than six million books, or about two books for each inhabitant.

Probably the longest and most luxurious beard in the world is that of Zachary T. Wilcox of Carson City, Nev., a veteran of the Civil war. He has not shaved or had it cut for 32 years, and his hirsute adornment is now 8½ feet long. Ordinarily it is worn wrapped around a piece of cardboard and thrust under the owner's vest.

against an officer of the government is a suit against the government itself, and the government cannot be sued. Suit already has been filed by four persons. The treasury statement, however, expressed the opinion that it is "more than probable that the case will be dismissed by the court on a preliminary motion."

Some of the most enterprising farmers in the state are colored men and it is characteristic of them that when they once establish a record they hold to it. Such is the case with G. W. Kistler, a colored farmer of Cumberland county. For a number of years he has been the seller of the first bale of new cotton on the Fayetteville market, and he has just repeated the performance for the present season. Should Kistler ever lose the record, the Observer would confess to disappointment. The Negro who holds a record in any line of good endeavor deserves the encouragement of his white neighbors and friends, and generally has it—at least that is the sentiment in this section of the state.—Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.

Mme. Caillaux, the French ex-prime minister's wife, lately acquitted of the charge of murdering M. Calmette, is finding in the war an opportunity of escape from a position which must have been, after all, very trying. Even though the jury acquitted her, she is now in command of a nursing corps at the rear of the main French army.

The census that Holland took early this year gave the country a population of 6,336,670, a gain in ten years of 433,241.

hostile to all originality, crushingly respectable, that dictates our homes, our occupations, our amusements, our emotions, our religion, is the most ruthless and tyrannical thing in the world.—Arthur Christopher Benson.

Wonder If He's Crazy? Now a scientist announces that kissing is a sign of insanity. But that would appear to be a gross exaggeration. At the worst it can scarcely be considered anything more than a symptom of emotional intoxication.

PACKING CHLORINE FOR THE FRONT



Workmen in a munitions factory near London packing chlorine for shipment to the front. All of them have to wear respirators.

CUPID IN WAR TIME

Weddings in a Hurry Are Now the Fashion.

Romance Surrounds Almost All War Marriages and All Records for Speed Are Shattered—Char- ters Ship for Ceremony.

London.—A newspaper edited and published in some inexplicable manner by the British soldiers in the trenches has the following society note concerning the recent wedding of a young officer:

"Twenty-four hours after the ceremony the bridegroom left for Boulogne by the famous 'one o'clock special' from Victoria station, and before midnight he was cozily installed in the 'Carlton' dug-out, pelted with something far hotter than confetti or old shoes. His bride went back to her mother's and dreamed of the time when he'd come again—unannounced as good fortune is, and equally hard to recognize.

"We're eating cake here, and wearing the mufflers her bridesmaids are using. Meanwhile the colonel is writing a letter of thanks and promising to keep an eye upon young D—for a day or two, until his head comes down out of the clouds, and the sniper becomes a real institution to him again."

Weddings in a hurry are now the fashion in Britain and honeymooners, far from being a real 'moon' in length, are often not even a day. Better be a wife for five minutes, one bride is quoted as saying, than an old maid all your life. Another woman was heard to remark: "Thank God, he was my husband for a fortnight before he was shot. Now he can claim me in heaven."

The other day a Glasgow man received a summons on an hour's notice to attend the wedding of one of his soldier friends. The intrepid son of Mars had arrived unexpectedly and astonished his own particular corner of the world by announcing that he intended to be wedded and away in thirty-six hours. The best man was afterward heard to assert that the excitement of arranging and carrying through the ceremonies at the registra-

QUEEN TURNS NURSE



The queen of Bulgaria, whose ability as a nurse has been manifested time and time again since she established in Sofia one of the finest and best equipped hospitals, has again taken actively to the work which she loves so dearly. The alleviation of the sufferings of her subjects has always been the thing nearest her heart, and so, while the soldiers of her kingdom are marching to the war, she is devoting her time and attention to nursing the sick orphans in the orphanages of her country.

NOVEL FEAT IN SURGERY

Dallas.—With two ten-inch strips of skin knitting perfectly on his back, David Reed of Denison, a Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad engineer, presents what surgeons here state is one of the most remarkable surgical cases ever known in the Southwest.

Reed lost two-thirds of his skin surface by escaping steam in a train wreck four months ago. Physicians at the time believed he would die, but

travels, before the sheriff, and in church, in addition to the lunch, the speeches, a subsequent visit to a theater, and send-off at the station, all within the time limit, had made a confirmed bachelor of him.

A bluejacket on one of the Harwich destroyers made a strong bid for the matrimonial speed record. He could only get two hours' leave of absence from his ship, but he used it well. His fiancée and friends met him directly he reached the shore, and they drove in a motor car to Ramsey church, a good three miles. There the wedding was performed and the newly-married couple drove back to Harwich to have a "top speed" wedding breakfast.

The witty Lady Randolph Churchill says the nearest approach she knows to a marriage made in heaven was the case of the aviator who flew over from Dunkirk recently, married his bride, and then flew back again.

Romance surrounds almost all the war weddings. The story of how a farmer's son, Sergeant Crees of the North Somerset Yeomanry, wooed and won a peer's niece for a bride reads more like a fragment of the novelist's brain than an actual occurrence.

The gallant sergeant came scotchless through a lot of the stiffest fighting, but the day arrived when he found himself among the "casualties" in Rouen hospital. Thence he was invalided home and sent to the V. A. D. hospital at Oakley Manor, Shrewsbury. The sister second in command here was Miss Jackson, who belongs to a wealthy Shropshire family, and whose father fought and died for his country in the South African war. Lord Hatherton of Teddesley Park, Staffordshire, is her uncle, and she has no end of aristocratic relations, all of which, however, did not prevent her devoting herself to nursing the wounded soldiers. Thanks to her care and devotion, Sergeant Crees recovered from a serious operation, and a warm attachment sprang up between nurse and patient, which led to their engagement and ultimate marriage.

Two members of the medical profession were recently made as one on the high seas. They were Dr. Percy Wallace (First British Field hospital to Serbia) and Miss Dora Woolcock of the Wounded Allies First Field unit to Montenegro. It was when they arrived at Saloniki that Doctor Wallace and Miss Woolcock decided to marry. She was bound for Montenegro, he for Serbia. They found that the wedding could only be performed after a three weeks' residence, unless the marriage could take place in a British ship outside the three-mile limit. Accordingly, a ship was chartered, and three miles from land the marriage service was read by the vicar of Buxton. Claude Askew, the novelist, gave the bride away.

MAKES MODEL OF HIS JAIL

San Francisco Prisoner Works for Fun—Wouldn't Work for His Children.

San Francisco.—Joseph Swanson, serving a term in the county jail for failure to provide for his children, has proved his ability to provide for them if he cares to try.

During three weeks in jail he modeled a wooden replica of the building in which he is imprisoned, with a saw, jackknife and a pot of glue. The windows are made of celluloid panes. Swanson has presented his model to Sheriff Barnett, who has placed it in his collection of curiosities.

HURLS ALIMONY ON PORCH

Probation Officer Gives Ohio Man Lessons in Proper Way to Pay.

Akron, O.—Probation Officer Switzer recently gave Harry P. Hood instructions as to the proper way to pay \$5 a week alimony he was ordered to give his wife.

Hood tied up \$4.50 in a small package and threw it upon the porch of his wife's home. Mrs. Hood asked Switzer to make Hood give up the additional 50 cents, and added that it would be more satisfactory if in future the money was paid through the court.

Reed was brought to a local sanitarium, where the sixteenth patch of skin was grafted and the wreck victim took a new grasp on life.

Found \$100 Pearl in His Lunch. Toledo, O.—J. C. Wannamaker received full value for his money in a restaurant at South Bend, Ind., when he found a pearl worth more than \$100 in a 25-cent dish of raw oysters. One of the waiters contended the pearl belonged to him but the Toledo man refused to give it up.

CRAWL TO FREEDOM

Prisoners Make Daring Escape From German Camp.

Cut Barbed-Wire Fences and Flee in Night—British Sergeant Tells King of Remarkable Feat of Self and Private.

London.—An interesting account of the escape from Germany of two prisoners of war, one a sergeant and the other a private of a British light infantry regiment, has just come to light through the audience granted by the king at Buckingham Palace to Sergeant Birley and Private Hawthorn.

King George personally questioned the two soldiers at great length regarding their escape. The story told by Sergeant Birley was particularly interesting.

"It took us just four days and five nights to get free of German soil after we had once broken out of our prison at Westphalia," the sergeant said. "I went to the front with my regiment, the First Gloucesters, as soon as the war broke out, and was captured on October 29, 1914, near Ypres. On the way to the prison camp in Westphalia we were pretty roughly treated. One night fifty-three of us were locked in a church and had nothing to eat for more than twenty-four hours. At last they emptied a basket of moldy bread on to the floor and left us a bucket of water. During the train journey fifty-three of us were crammed into a closed railway van for fifty-six hours. Only once were we allowed to get out, and that was for a few minutes. For food we had some scraps of bread.

"At the camp I made several plans for escaping, but never got a favorable opportunity. I managed to get myself transferred to another camp and there began to make my plans which have succeeded so well.

"It was not an easy matter. The camp was, of course surrounded by a high barbed-wire fencing. On each of its four posts a sentry was posted, and night four powerful acetylene lamps lighted up the whole of the camp.

"The great night came. We waited till one of the sentries had his back turned, and then wriggled on our stomachs to the fencing. I then managed to sever one strand of the fence and, to my mind, the tang of it made the greatest noise I ever heard. But the sentry walked on. With beating heart I snapped the second strand. That made an awful noise. Still the sentry walked on. Then we crawled out, free men. I am glad we outwitted that sentry, as he had caused us a lot of trouble.

"We had to crawl for 100 yards before we could get any sort of shelter, and then we moved away as quickly as we could in the circumstances. During the night a compass which I had was a real find.

"The only food we had was a few biscuits and a little chocolate. Whenever we came near a farm the watch dogs barked. In the nights that followed the dogs always snelt us when we were stealing apples in the orchards. For three days we had no other food but apples.

"It wasn't safe to travel by day. Although we had plenty of tobacco, I had laid it down that there was to be no smoking day or night until we were out of the country. The smell of English tobacco might easily put an inquisitive German on our track.

MASCOT GETS HIS



"Ginger," mascot of the battleship Oregon, recently got lost while on shore leave. Later he showed up along the water front and was given five days in the brig for failing to show up at four bells in the evening.

Bans Dope Kios in Prison. Seattle, Wash.—County Prison Superintendent Hally has put an official ban on the kissing of women prisoners by visitors.

A few months ago he gave notice that no more kissing would be allowed in the visitors' lobby of the men's section, following the discovery that "dope" in various forms was being transferred to prisoners by the lip-to-lip route. A similar discovery, he says, was made in the women's ward.

Women Repair the Roads. Hammond, Okla.—Their husbands busy harvesting the crops and attending to other farm work, the women of Spring Creek neighborhood, near here, got out and repaired the roads, and did a good job.

Luke Trent, the mail carrier, complained about the culverts and bridges being out. The men were too busy with other work. Trent said he would have to quit carrying the mail if the roads and bridges were not fixed.

The women used a plow and a scraper and in two days had the work done.

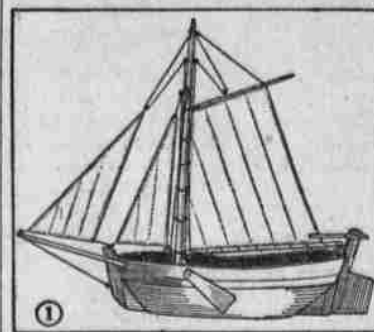
HANDICRAFT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

By A. NEELY HALL and DOROTHY PERKINS

(Copyright, by A. Neely Hall)

A TOY SAILBOAT.

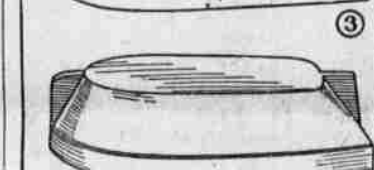
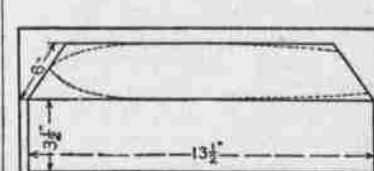
In Fig. 1 I have shown a sailboat with a broad hull of a satisfactory design that is easy to prepare. A solid block of wood of the dimensions shown in Fig. 2 is required for the hull. First mark out the curve of the deck, as indicated by dotted lines (Fig. 2), upon both top and bottom faces, then cut to these lines (Fig. 3). Next, mark off the shape of the bottom of



the hull upon the bottom face of the block, as indicated by dotted lines in Fig. 3; also draw a line around the sides and bow and stern, one inch below the top (see dotted line); and pare down the sides from the dotted line to the line of the hull bottom, to make them of the form shown in Fig. 4. Be careful in marking out the hull, to get the sides exactly the same; and use an equal amount of care in cutting. With the outside cutting, scoop out one-half the length of the hull, for a cockpit (Fig. 5).

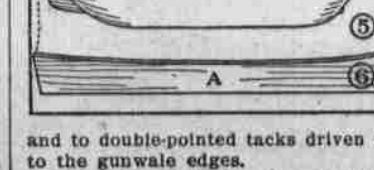
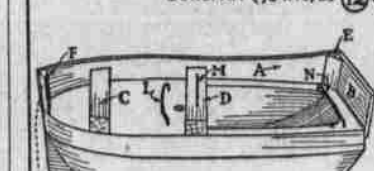
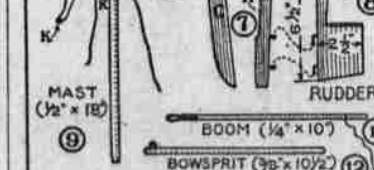
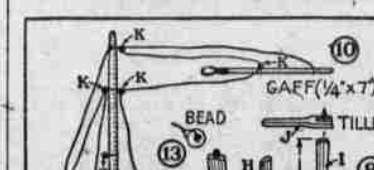
The gunwale strips A and B (Figs. 5 and 6) are lapped over and tacked to the upper edges of the hull. Cut them out of thin wood. Curve the top edge of strips A, as shown in Fig. 6. Cross strips C and D, and the corner blocks E and F (Fig. 5), are provided to brace the gunwales.

Finish the bow of the hull with strip G (Fig. 7), and the stern with strip H. The double-pointed tack in G is provided for the attachment of



the foresail. Make the rudder as shown at I (Fig. 8), with a tiller stick (J, Fig. 8) tacked to its top. Drive a couple of brads into the long edge of the rudder, and bend them over for hooks to fit in a pair of small screw-eyes driven into stern strip H (Fig. 7).

Figs. 9 to 12 show the mast, gaff, boom and bowsprit. Bind a loop of wire to one end of both the boom and the gaff, to slip loosely over the mast, as shown. Drive a double-pointed tack into the bowsprit near one end, and slip the other end through a hole in one of the gunwales. Set the mast in a hole bored in the hull, and brace it on each side with stays tied to it



and to double-pointed tacks driven into the gunwale edges.

Have mother make you a mainsail, a foresail, and a jib, of the proportions shown in Fig. 1, with each edge hemmed. Four fancy-work rings should be sewed to the mainsail for mast hoops, and the top and bottom should be lashed to the boom and gaff with thread.

Figs. 9 and 10 show the halyards for raising and lowering the sails. Use bands for blocks (Fig. 13). There should be six of these blocks (see K, Fig. 9 and 10). The wire bars L, M and N (Fig. 5) are provided for tying the halyard ends to.

Why Harsh Words Hurt. Most people seem to feel hard words more than hard deeds, and are more upset by insults than by actual injuries. What we do to an enemy in war is done from necessity, but the evil we say of him seems to arise from an excess of spite.—Putarch.

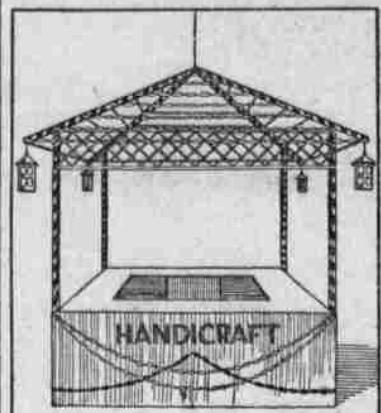
Under the Oilcloth. Oilcloth when used to cover tables will last much longer if the tables first be covered with paper, well rubbed with machine oil to keep the under side of the oilcloth moist.

Looked on Him as "Piker." "No, I don't speak to him," said the convicted banknote counterfeiter. "He's hardly in our set. He's in here for making bogus nickels."

A GIRLS' HANDICRAFT BOOTH FOR A FAIR.

Here is a plan for a handicraft booth which a class of girls can make one of the most attractive and best-nutritious features of the church fair. Your own handicraft can be placed on sale, and you can build the booth itself, by following the plan I have worked out in Fig. 1.

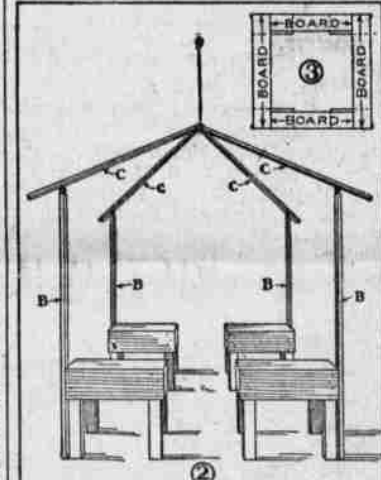
Fig. 2 shows how the booth is constructed. You will need a grocery box about thirty inches long, fourteen inches wide and ten inches deep for the corner supports. These boxes must be mounted on legs (A, Figs. 4 and 5), made of pieces two inches thick, four inches wide and twenty-six inches long. The supports for the



canopy are nailed to these boxes (B, Fig. 5).

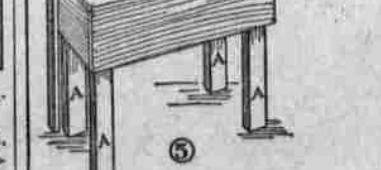
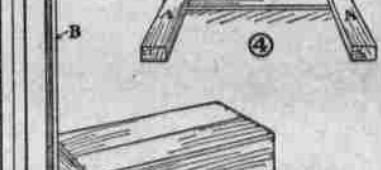
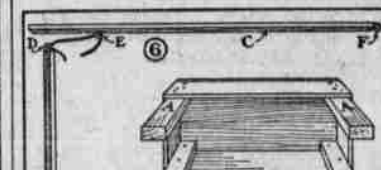
The distance apart to place the box supports will be determined, of course, by the size that you want to make the booth. Seven feet square, outside measurement, is a good size. The counter boards should be twelve inches wide, and long enough to make a continuous counter extending from corner to corner. This is not shown in Fig. 2, but it is indicated in the plan diagram of Fig. 3.

The canopy framework is made of four poles (C, Fig. 3). The lower ends of these are secured to the tops of uprights 2, and the upper ends are suspended from a screw eye screwed into the ceiling directly over the tops of the booth. These poles must project six inches or so over the tops of uprights B, and be long



enough to run up to a peak at the center. By screwing a screw eye into the tops of uprights B, and one into the under side of poles C (Figs. 5 and 6), the poles can be joined by tying together the screw eyes with cord. Screw a screw eye into the upper end of pole C to tie the cord to for suspending the poles from the ceiling.

Crope tissue paper in different colors is the best covering material for the booth framework. Figure 1 suggests how strips of the paper may be wound around the corner uprights and canopy poles, how a latticework frieze of twisted ropes of crepe paper may be extended around the sides at the top, and how ribbons of crepe paper may be used to inclose the canopy framework. Pretty homemade cardboard lanterns hung from



the ends of the canopy poles will add a finishing touch to the roof.

Tack heavy wrapping paper to the counter boards, and then cover this with cheesecloth of a color to harmonize with the tissue-paper trimmings. A pretty effect will be obtained by plaiting this as indicated in Fig. 1. One side of the valance must be made to part, to provide an entrance into the booth.

One General Mistake. We try too much to surpass others. If we seek ever to surpass ourselves, we are moving on a uniform line of progress, that gives a harmonious unifying to our growth in all its parts. The true competition is the competition of the individual with himself.—Jordan.

Looked on Him as "Piker." "No, I don't speak to him," said the convicted banknote counterfeiter. "He's hardly in our set. He's in here for making bogus nickels."